



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

October 1, 2015

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
HILDA L. SOLIS  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## OFFICE OF DIVERSION AND RE-ENTRY 30-DAY STATUS REPORT

On August 11, 2015, Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Kuehl introduced a motion to improve the coordination and implementation of diversion efforts throughout Los Angeles County. The Board approved the motion on September 1, 2015, and directed the following:

1. Establish a Director of the Office of Diversion and Re-Entry (OD&R) position within the Department of Health Services (DHS) who would be responsible for oversight and coordination of all countywide diversion of persons who have mental illness or substance abuse issues, and persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless upon discharge, with this position to coordinate closely with the Jail Care Transitions Director;
2. Allocate five new positions to the OD&R, which shall include expertise in housing, health, mental health/alcohol and drug prevention and legal/justice issues;
3. Establish a Permanent Steering Committee (PSC) that is convened by the Interim Chief Executive Officer and is co-chaired on an interim basis by the District Attorney and the Director of Health Services pending hire of the Director of the Office of Diversion and Re-Entry, with this PSC to consist of one leadership representative from each of the following Departments: Chief Executive Office (CEO), Superior Court, Public Defender (PD), Alternate Public Defender (APD), District Attorney (DA), Sheriff, Probation, Fire, Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and the Control Division of the Department of Public Health and Health Services, and also include a member of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, a member from the City Attorney's Association, significantly more community representation with at least one representative from a mental health service provider and one representative from a

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mental health advocacy organization, with the purpose of this advisory committee to the OD&R being to develop and drive forward recommendations so diversion seamlessly occurs across all intercepts. The PSC shall meet at least on a monthly basis and work in collaboration with and be informed by the working groups established by the DA;

4. Create a diversion fund and allocate it to the new OD&R, with the Interim County Counsel and the Interim Chief Executive Officer to report back to the Board in writing within 30 days with any concerns or issues identified regarding the proposed transfers.

### **Positions for the Office of Diversion and Re-Entry**

During the week of September 21, 2015, the CEO's Classification Division, in collaboration with DHS, began briefing your Board offices on the Board letter scheduled for the October 6, 2015 Board agenda. Our office is requesting to amend the ordinance for DHS to establish the Director, OD&R (UC) position. Upon Board approval, DHS will begin the hiring process for the Director of the OD&R. Once the Director is hired, CEO and DHS will collaborate to establish the remaining five positions.

### **Permanent Steering Committee**

On September 3, 2015, our office reached out to potential members from the various County departments and outside agencies identified by the motion to participate on the PSC. As noted above, the PSC is comprised of representatives from the departments of CEO, DA, DHS, Superior Court, PD, APD, Sheriff, Probation, Fire, Mental Health, and Public Health, as well as members from the City Attorney's Office and the City Attorney's Association. The motion also requires community representation from mental health service providers and advocacy organizations, which will be addressed by DHS.

On September 24, 2015, the Interim CEO, along with the District Attorney and the Director of Health Services, convened the first PSC meeting. The major topics of discussion were:

- How OD&R relates to the ongoing efforts of the DA's diversion efforts.
- Vision for the OD&R (roles and responsibilities of the OD&R and the PSC).
- Progress since the motion passed.
- Funds for diversion efforts.
- Positions for the OD&R.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all the members of the PSC.
- Creating a project and spending plan.

- Upcoming PSC meetings.

Now that the PSC meeting has been established and convened, DHS will assume coordination and leadership of continuing monthly PSC meetings.

### **Diversion Funds**

On September 29, 2015, as part of the FY 2015-16 Supplemental Budget, the County created a new budget unit in the General Fund for Diversion and Re-Entry, consistent with input from County Counsel. Funds have been allocated as follows:

- \$20.2 million in Available Fund Balance from the reimbursement of pre-2004 SB 90 claims;
- \$20.0 million of additional Available Fund Balance from the General Fund;
- \$10.0 million in ongoing funding and \$20.0 million in one-time funding from the PFU budget unit;
- \$4.3 million in appropriation offset with \$4.3 million in Public Safety Realignment (AB 109) revenue to the Diversion and Re-Entry budget Unit.

These combined adjustments provide the Diversion and Re-Entry budget unit with appropriation authority totaling \$74.5 million (\$14.3 million ongoing and \$60.2 million one-time funding).

As directed by your Board, the CEO will continue to work with DHS to identify and report on all sources and uses of diversion funding, including SB 678, and include a detailed Diversion Budget as part of the County's Recommended Budget for FY 2016-17.

### **Next Steps**

County departments and stakeholders will continue to collaborate under the leadership of DHS on the following tasks, as directed by your Board on September 1, 2015:

- Interim County Counsel to work with the CEO to draft a County Ordinance within 60 days to create the OD&R;
- OD&R and PSC to identify or create a more standardized diversion assessment tool and report back within 60 days of the PSC's first meeting on recommendations, proposed roll-out, priority populations, projects and training;
- Interim County Counsel to draft an MOU between all members of the PSC, Sheriff, local police departments (if interested), and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority;

- Director of OD&R and PSC, within 90 days from adoption of the motion, to report back on specific written recommendations related to the allocation of diversion funds;
- Director of OD&R and the Interim CEO to report back in 90 days on how to develop a pipeline of no less than 1,000 permanent supportive housing units over the next five years to support a jail diversion program;
- Director of OD&R and the Interim CEO to work with the Director of DHS to report back in 90 days on a proposed plan to evaluate the efficacy of this diversion initiative;
- OD&R and the Sheriff to assume joint responsibility for developing the application for the second phase of the MacArthur Grant; and
- OD&R's development and expansion of treatment services and housing capacity in the community to include community outreach and input.

The next status reports will be provided by DHS's OD&R addressing these milestones.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Brence Culp at (323) 526-5363, or [bculp@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:bculp@ceo.lacounty.gov).

SAH:JJ:BC:cg

c:     Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
       County Counsel  
       District Attorney  
       Health Services  
       Permanent Steering Committee